

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant first wishes to thank Examiner Bashaw for her indication of allowable subject matter. Reconsideration of the above-identified patent application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1 - 28 were previously cancelled without prejudice. Claims 30 - 44 are now cancelled, without prejudice. Claim 29 was previously allowed and remains in the application.

The present invention features a one-piece osteotome useful for performing several of the multiple steps required to prepare an osteotomy (i.e., a "hole") for receiving a dental implant. The novel, one-piece tool contains multiple working sections, each of these sections being specifically designed to perform a distinct operation. The sections typically include a drill portion, a locator tip, a crestal reducer portion, and a lateral redirector portion within the single tool. This allows a practitioner to selectively perform multiple operations

without replacing the tool in the hand piece. This ensures maximum efficiency and ensures that the various functional portions of the tool are compatible with one another. The present invention also features a method of using the one-piece osteotome.

Claims 1, 2, and 4 - 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 6,364,662 (Kumar). Claims 3 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over 6,364,662 (Kumar). Claims 30 - 44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over 5,261,818 (Shaw) in view of 6,364,662 (Kumar). The cancellation of claims 1 - 28 and 30 - 44 renders their rejection moot.

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Amendment dated December 17, 2008
Reply to Office Action of September 23, 2008

Claim 29 was previously allowed. Applicant respectfully requests that claim 29 be allowed and the application passed to issue.

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On December 17, 2008
(Date of Deposit)

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